GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2232
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Regularisation of Anganwadi Workers/ Helpers
Nishad Shri Ajay;Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to regularise the services of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/helpers, currently working as honorary workers in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether number of posts of AWWs/helpers are lying vacant in the country, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reaction of the Government for their filling;

(c) whether the honorarium being paid to the AWWs/helpers in the country differ from State to State and is even lower than the wages paid under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the response of the Government to revise/enhance the honorarium rate so as to make it uniform in the country and at par with MGNREGA;

(e) whether the Government provides social security benefits including insurance to AWWs/helpers, if so, the details thereof indicating the number of beneficiaries thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year state/UT-wise; and

(f) the further measures taken by the Government to improve the working condition of AWWs/helpers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to regularize services of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as 'honorary workers' from the local community who come forward to render their services, on part time basis, in the area of child care and development. In view of the very nature of the role of AWWs and AWHs in the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, these functionaries cannot be declared as government employees.

(b) The number of posts of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) lying vacant in the country as on 31.03.2016 are as under:

	Posts Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant
AWWs	14,00,000	12,86,286	1,13,714
AWHs	12,83,150	11,63,941	1,19,209

State/UT-wise details are given at Annex-I.

Implementation of ICDS Scheme including filling up of vacancies is the responsibility of States/UTs. MWCD has repeatedly impressed upon the State Governments/ UT Administrations through review meetings, letters etc. to take all required measures for early filling up of vacant posts.

(c) &
(d) Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/Helpers, being honorary workers, are paid monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time. Presently, AWWs and AWHs are paid honoraria @ Rs.3,000/- and Rs.1,500/- per month respectively w.e.f. 01-04-2011. AWWs of Mini - AWCs are being paid honoraria @ Rs.2,250/- w.e.f. 04-07-2013. Apart from these, monetary incentives are paid by most of the State Governments / UT Administrations from their own resources. A statement showing additional honoraria paid by different States/UTs to the AWWs/AWHs is given at Annex-II.

Under MGNREGA, people of rural areas are given hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to every household. Whereas, under ICDS Scheme, AWWs/AWHs are honorary workers, who are paid monthly honorarium throughout the year till their dis-engagement. The payment of honorarium to AWWs/Helpers by the Government and payment of wages to workers under MGNREGA are distinct from each other. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the honorarium rate to

make it at par with MGNREGA.
(e) Under the Social Security benefits, the Government launched the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana (AKBY) w.e.f. 01-04-2004 in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as a welfare measure for the benefit of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs). The Scheme is operated through the Social Security Group Scheme of LIC. The salient features of the AKBY are as under:

i) The Scheme is applicable to all AWWs and AWHs in the age group of 18-59 years;
ii) The premium under the Scheme is Rs.280/- per annum per member. The breakup is as under:
? Rs.100/- from Social Security Fund of LIC;
? Rs.100/- by the Government of India;
? Rs.80/- by the Anganwadi Worker/ Helper (additional for female critical illness of the insured member). The premium of Rs.80/- payable by these workers towards critical illness has been waived off till 31-03-2017.

iii) The Scheme provides the following compensation:

? Natural Death: Rs.30,000/-

? Accident benefit:
? Death/ Total permanent disability Rs.75,000/-
? Partial Permanent disability Rs.37,500/-

? Female Critical Illness (FCI) Benefits: An amount of Rs.20,000/- is payable on the diagnosis of invasive cancers (malignant tumour) manifest in the following organs (subject to proof of affliction satisfactory to Corporation):
? Breast
? Cervix Uteri
? Corpus Uteri
? Ovaries
? Fallopian Tubes
? Vaginal/Vulva

? Shiksha Sahayog Yojana

A free add-on scholarship benefit is available for the children of AWWs and AWHs. Scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter for students of 9th to 12th Standard (including ITI courses) is available but it is limited to two children per family.

The number of beneficiaries [AWWs/Helpers] availing Social Security benefits, viz., insurance during the last three years given at Annex-III. The details for current year is the number shown in position at Annexure-I

(f) The following measures have been taken by the government for improving the working condition of AWWs/Helpers:

? Award: In order to motivate the Anganwadi Workers and give recognition to good voluntary work, a Scheme of Award for AWWs has been introduced, both at the National and State level. The Award comprises Rs.25,000/- Cash and a Citation at Central level and Rs.5,000/- Cash and a Citation at State level.

? Uniform: Government has made a provision for a set of two Uniform (saree/suit @ Rs.300/- per saree per annum) and a name badge to Anganwadi Worker and Helper.

Apart from the above, the following facilities are also being extended to AWWs/AWHs:
â€¢ 20 days' casual leave per year;
â€¢ Paid absence on maternity of 180 days;
â€¢ Reservation of 50% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers;
â€¢ Recruitment of 25% of Anganwadi Workers from amongst AWHs.

****

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to regularize services of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as 'honorary workers' from the local community who come forward to render their services, on part time basis, in the area of child care and development. In view of the very nature of the role of AWWs and AWHs in the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, these functionaries cannot be declared as government employees.

(b) The number of posts of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) lying vacant in the country as on

31.03.2016 are as under:

Posts Sanctioned In-position Vacant
AWWs 14,00,000 12,86,286 1,13,714
AWHs 12,83,150 11,63,941 1,19,209

State/UT-wise details are given at Annex-I.

Implementation of ICDS Scheme including filling up of vacancies is the responsibility of States/UTs. MWCD has repeatedly impressed upon the State Governments/ UT Administrations through review meetings, letters etc. to take all required measures for early filling up of vacant posts.

(c) &
(d) Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/Helpers, being honorary workers, are paid monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time. Presently, AWWs and AWHs are paid honoraria @ Rs.3,000/- and Rs.1,500/- per month respectively w.e.f. 01-04-2011. AWWs of Mini - AWCs are being paid honoraria @ Rs.2,250/- w.e.f. 04-07-2013. Apart from these, monetary incentives are paid by most of the State Governments / UT Administrations from their own resources. A statement showing additional honoraria paid by different States/UTs to the AWWs/AWHs is given at Annex-II.

Under MGNREGA, people of rural areas are given hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to every household. Whereas, under ICDS Scheme, AWWs/AWHs are honorary workers, who are paid monthly honorarium throughout the year till their dis-engagement. The payment of honorarium to AWWs/Helpers by the Government and payment of wages to workers under MGNREGA are distinct from each other. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the honorarium rate to make it at par with MGNREGA.
(e) Under the Social Security benefits, the Government launched the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana (AKBY) w.e.f. 01-04-2004 in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as a welfare measure for the benefit of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs). The Scheme is operated through the Social Security Group Scheme of LIC. The salient features of the AKBY are as under:

i) The Scheme is applicable to all AWWs and AWHs in the age group of 18-59 years;
ii) The premium under the Scheme is Rs.280/- per annum per member. The breakup is as under:
? Rs.100/- from Social Security Fund of LIC;
? Rs.100/- by the Government of India;
? Rs.80/- by the Anganwadi Worker/ Helper (additional for female critical illness of the insured member). The premium of Rs.80/- payable by these workers towards critical illness has been waived off till 31-03-2017.

iii) The Scheme provides the following compensation:

? Natural Death: Rs.30,000/-

? Accident benefit:
? Death/ Total permanent disability Rs.75,000/-
? Partial Permanent disability Rs.37,500/-

? Female Critical Illness (FCI) Benefits: An amount of Rs.20,000/- is payable on the diagnosis of invasive cancers (malignant tumour) manifest in the following organs (subject to proof of affliction satisfactory to Corporation):
? Breast
? Cervix Uteri
? Corpus Uteri
? Ovaries
? Fallopian Tubes
? Vaginal/Vulva

? Shiksha Sahayog Yojana

A free add-on scholarship benefit is available for the children of AWWs and AWHs. Scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter for students of 9th to 12th Standard (including ITI courses) is available but it is limited to two children per family.

The number of beneficiaries [AWWs/Helpers] availing Social Security benefits, viz., insurance during the last three years given at Annex-III. The details for current year is the number shown in position at Annexure-I

(f) The following measures have been taken by the government for improving the working condition of AWWs/Helpers:

? Award: In order to motivate the Anganwadi Workers and give recognition to good voluntary work, a Scheme of Award for AWWs has been introduced, both at the National and State level. The Award comprises Rs.25,000/- Cash and a Citation at Central level and Rs.5,000/- Cash and a Citation at State level.

? Uniform: Government has made a provision for a set of two Uniform (saree/suit @ Rs.300/- per saree per annum) and a name badge to Anganwadi Worker and Helper.

Apart from the above, the following facilities are also being extended to AWWs/AWHs:

â€¢ 20 days' casual leave per year;
â€¢ Paid absence on maternity of 180 days;
â€¢ Reservation of 50% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers;
â€¢ Recruitment of 25% of Anganwadi Workers from amongst AWHs.

****